



Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990
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Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Regular Meeting

5:30 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Administration Building

Planning Commission Hearing Room – 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

AGENDA

ORDER OF BUSINESS: This regular meeting of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Santa Barbara County Administration Building Planning Commission Hearing Room.

REPORTS: Copies of the reports relating to agenda items are available for review in the County Parks Administration Office at 610 Mission Canyon Road, in the City Clerk's Office, at the Central Library, and at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Office at 620 Laguna Street. In accordance with state law requirements, this agenda generally contains only a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting. Should you wish more detailed information regarding any particular agenda item, you are encouraged to obtain a copy of the staff report for that item from either County Parks Administration at 610 Mission Canyon Road, the Reference Desk at the City's Main Library, or at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Office at 620 Laguna Street. Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Task Force after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the County Parks Administration located at 610 Mission Canyon Road or the Parks and Recreation Department located at 620 Laguna Street, during normal business hours.

REQUEST TO SPEAK: A member of the public may address the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force regarding any scheduled agenda item. Any person wishing to address the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force should first complete and deliver to the County Parks Director/Recorder a "Request to Speak" form prior to the time that the item on the agenda is read by the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Chair. The Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force, upon majority vote, may decline to hear a speaker on the grounds that the subject matter is beyond its jurisdiction.

PUBLIC COMMENT: At the beginning of the session of each regular Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force meeting, and at the beginning of each special Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force meeting, any member of the public may address the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force on any item not on the agenda. The total amount of time for public comments will be 15 minutes, and no individual speaker may speak for more than 1 minute.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this hearing, please contact Jessica Opland at (805) 568-2467. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements.

**FRONT COUNTRY TRAILS (FCT)
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL TASK FORCE MEETING**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

5:30 p.m. - Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT

Any member of the public may address the Task Force for up to one minute on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Task Force that is not scheduled for a public discussion before the Task Force.

TASK FORCE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

1. Approval of Minutes – For Action (Attachment 1)

Recommendation: That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 1, 2010.

TRAIL STAR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

2. Recognition of Santa Barbara Youth Corps – For Action

Recommendation: That the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force recognize the Santa Barbara Youth Corps for Youth Leadership and Dedication to the Front Country Trails.

3. Recognition of Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care – For Action

Recommendation: That the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force recognize Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care for Business Leadership and Dedication to the Front Country Trails.

OLD BUSINESS

4. FCT Management Plan and 2011 Funding – For Discussion (Attachment 2)

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force review and discuss the next steps for developing the FCT Management Plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Trail Maintenance Projects for 2011 – For Information

Recommendation: That FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force receives a status report on FCT trail maintenance projects for 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

The FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force will adjourn to the Santa Barbara City Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor, for the meeting to be held on March 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.



Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 1, 2010
5:30 PM
Santa Barbara County Administration Building
Planning Commission Hearing Room – 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Perkins called the regular meeting of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force to order at 5:30 PM at the Santa Barbara County Administration Building, Planning Commission Hearing Room, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: By Chair Perkins.

ROLL CALL: All members Present.

Task Force Members Present:

Suzanne Perkins: County Park Commissioner, 1st District
Judith Dale: County Park Commissioner, 3rd District
Beebe Longstreet: City Park & Recreation Commissioner
W. Scott Burns: City Park & Recreation Commissioner
Bruce Emmens: Public Use & Facilities Staff Officer, Los Padres National Forest
Jeff Bensen: Assistant Forest Recreation Officer, Los Padres National Forest

City Staff Present:

Jill Zachary: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Kathy Frye: Associate Park/Natural Areas Planner

County of Santa Barbara Staff Present:

Erik Axelson: County Parks Deputy Director
Claude Garciacelay: ASLA, Park Planner
Mark Guy: Ranger II
Jessica Opland: Administrative Professional

Los Padres National Forest Staff Present:

Kerry Kellogg: Wilderness and Trails Manager, Santa Barbara Ranger District

Front Country Trails Staff Present:

Rebecca Mordini: Front Country Trails Coordinator

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stephen Dougherty left the last meeting with the impression that the Task Force thought the only dangers with bikers and hikers was direct encounters. However, there are things done to the trails by bikes that make it more dangerous for hikers. For example, bikers loosen rocks and gravel on the trails causing hikers to

slip. Also, he suggested, before scheduling a workshop, the Task Force should hike the full length of the trail to look at the conditions and look up mountain biking clips on UTube to get a different perspective of how bikers affect the trails. Stephen also suggested creating a list of other jurisdictions and their trail restrictions.

Roy Ford wanted to remind the Task Force that there are a lot of great non-profit groups doing valuable trail work and other activities. In a few months, the Santa Barbara Trails Council is going to be introducing a fundraising project for Tunnel Trail sponsored by Bob and Patty Bryant to start work on more of the serious problems on the trail. For future projects, the Santa Barbara Trails Council would like a letter of support from the Task Force some time in the future.

Commissioner Perkins asked when volunteer organizations do trail work; is it done under the auspices of the City, or County, or Forest Service? So all the guidelines and permits that need to be pulled and standards that need to be met, that is all done under one jurisdiction of the three? Mr. Axelson said historically, the Forest Service has taken the lead on sponsoring cooperating organizations, using volunteer agreements with certain organizations. With the advent of the three agency management under Front Country Trails there is now shared responsibility.

Eric Hawkins, is with the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers, a 22- year-old 501(c)(3) non-profit advocacy and maintenance organization. SBMBT has assisted agencies with a number of volunteer trail maintenance events on Front Country Trails during these 22 years. On June 5th, SBMBT participated in the San Ysidro Trail Maintenance event coordinated for National Trail Day. On July 19th and August 1st SBMBT organized volunteer trail maintenance events on the Jesusita Trail and Cold Springs Trail. Tools for these two events were carried in on tool trailers attached to mountain bikes. On September 25th is National Public Lands Day, which will include a volunteer trail maintenance event on the McMenemy Trail, organized by the Forest Service and Rebecca Mordini. Also on this day, the Montecito Trails Foundation is having their annual BBQ and fundraiser. Last month, SBMBT purchased, built and distributed bike bells to many trail heads. These are available for free at trail heads and available for purchase in local bike shops.

TASK FORCE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force approve the meeting of June 2, 2010.

Motion:

Task Force members Burns/Longstreet to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 2, 2010, with the following revision:

1. Fourth Page, under Motion, change the word “except” to “accept.”

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (Dale abstained).

NEW BUSINESS

2. Funding Strategies – For Discussion

Recommendation: That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force receives a report and provides comments on the draft FCT Funding Strategy and Matrix.

Documents:

- Attachment 2
- PowerPoint Presentation
- PowerPoint Presentation Handouts

Speakers:

- Staff: Rebecca Mordini, Front Country Trails Coordinator; Jill Zachary: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
- Members of the Public: None.

Task Force Comments:

Task Force Member Burns asked if there were any fundraising prospects for short term. Ms. Mordini said they have started networking with the Chamber of Commerce and we are expanding to bring in new volunteer interests through United Way. We do not have any commitments yet, but we are definitely making more connections.

Task Force Member Longstreet commented that no one on the Task Force controls the dollars and all the people that care need to reach out beyond Front Country Trails and to the decision makers who control the dollars to make sure this money can be carved out of our individual budgets and that we can continue to move forward. The other consideration is budgeting agency staff time, which should be an acknowledged aspect of the program for the public. She is also pleased to see that grant money is easier to obtain for these shovel ready projects.

Ms. Zachary reminded the Task Force that this calendar year was the first year the three agencies have dedicated money for the Front Country Trails, totaling \$30,000. So what we will be looking at for a budget every year is to maintain that base so when we come to the Task Force in December with a proposed budget, we hope to be able to say yes, that is a commitment that we have. We will also quantify for you the amount of time that goes into this program from the City, County and Forest Service. Also, if possible we want to identify opportunities for added funding so we can move forward with a number of the projects that the Task Force is interested in seeing us achieve.

3. Trail Maintenance Checklist – For Discussion

Recommendation: That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force receives a report and provides comments on the Trail Improvement Project Checklist.

Documents:

- Attachment 3
- PowerPoint Presentation
- PowerPoint Presentation Handouts

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant City Parks and Recreation Director; Kerry Kellogg: Wilderness and Trails Manager, Santa Barbara Ranger District
- Members of the Public: Dan Gira, Dave Everett, Chris Orr, Jim Childres, Kevin Snow, Ray Smith, and Otis Calei. .

Task Force Comments:

Task Force Member Bensen said because it is multi-jurisdictional and the Forest Service is the lead on the trail standards, is the Forest Service still the lead on environmental documentation on these projects? NEPA versus CEQA, City versus County? Mr. Kellogg said it would be NEPA. Also, what the checklist may do is expose some of those holes, whether it is Forest Service or on County lands then that may change things about the jurisdiction.

Task Force Member Emmens commented on lead agency. If there is a trail project on a County trail outside the National Forest, you would probably do environmental review under your own CEQA requirements; it does not have anything to do with Federal requirements. So it would depend on where the project proposals located.

Task Force Member Perkins commented to Mr. Kellogg that he has been working with the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike volunteers for years, but is quite sure there will be more organizations coming forward that are going to have some growing pains in learning how the Forest Service and how the County and City expect things to be done. With these new organizations, do you anticipate you will have to take an active role in overseeing that the project moves forward? Mr. Kellogg said Task Force Member Perkins is correct; the check list is primarily for that work other than maintenance work. At the same time, if new organizations want to do just trail maintenance, we still have some steps they have to go through in order to do that. We just do not let anybody go out and do trail maintenance. Task Force Member Perkins said that is what she believes we are trying to get at. There are procedures, there are standards and everyone has to play by the same rules.

Task Force Member Emmens said he agrees that we need standards and everyone needs to play by the same rules, but one of the things that has always concerned him is that we do not make the rules so onerous that people do not quit before they start. It needs to be as easy as possible for the people to give to us and go through us. Mr. Kellogg said that the Forest Service has made it real simple to do maintenance work with the volunteer agreement.

Task Force Member Longstreet appreciates this project moving forward. It gives clear direction to these groups that want to Level 3 trail work. In our current times, the regulatory issues faced in any project, in any area are great and the ramifications of not following those regulations are monumental.

Task Force Member Burns hopes we do not wait till there is another incident before we look at what rules we need in place for the trails.

Task Force Member Perkins responded to Task Force Member Burns comment saying that we will be dealing with it and she thinks it is important for the public to know that we have not all forgotten that we will be coming up with standards and we will be looking at trail use and trail user groups.

Task Force Member Emmens said the checklist looks like a good management tool. It will also work well as a planning and communication tool between staff and the different groups. That will be key in utilizing the checklist. It does not have to become over burdensome because it will be Level 1 work, because once you get into Level 3 trail work, it gets more complicated in communicating on those types of projects is really going to be important.

Task Force Member Dale asked if it is up to staff to incorporate the suggestions made by public speaker Dan Gira or if it is something the Task Force should take action on. Task Force Member Perkins recommended staff evaluate those suggestions by Dan Gira. Ms. Zachary said that the intent of having this item on the agenda is for your discussion and comments as well as that of the public. We will be looking at all of the suggestions that we have received. In part we need to move forward with doing it and then hopefully it will reduce some concerns that people have, but part of the reason why we want to have a checklist is that it will allow us to efficiently allocate staff resources. We virtually have no staff resources. When we come back in December and present the budget for 2011 we will actually quantify the number of hours each one of us has for this program and it will help the Task Force realize and work with us on where those hours are best allocated. We anticipate that groups will be coming forward with their ideas and we will be able to work with them on a more casual basis before someone gives us a bunch of material. Ms. Zachary said they have tried to be responsive; we have asked to be more responsive and we are trying to do that. Commissioner Perkins said she believes staff is doing a great job and the Task Force understands the constraints that everyone is going through these days. The Task Force feels that some of the comments that Dan Gira made are viable comments that would be

helpful, but we may need to look at it to determine if in fact they are helpful or obstructionist. She also commented on Ray Smith's comments; we have to be very cognizant of the fire danger.

Task Force Member Dale asked if this will come back to the Task Force in December. Where does this stand? Ms. Zachary said staff will forward to the Task Force the final revised checklist and it will be a discussion as part of looking ahead to what we are doing in 2011 so you can see where staff resources will be allocated. We anticipate that we will be hearing from groups between now and then, so we will be able to say in 2011 we will expect to get requests, so how do we work that into our work program. Task Force Member Dale asked if comments will also be considered because someone went through a lot of work to put them together and they were well taken. Mr. Axelson said this discussion is working exactly how we hoped that it would. It has generated a lot of interest; very thoughtful comments from various trail stakeholders. We recognize that we do not have all the answers ourselves and that is one of the purposes of having this public discussion and we will use our best efforts to incorporate these comments into the final version, which staff will forward to the Task Force before the December meeting.

Task Force Member Longstreet asked if someone were developing a project right now, you would be able to use this checklist as is to guide a person through the process. Mr. Axelson said that is correct. It's not perfect, but it's a step in the right direction. Task Force Member Longstreet would like the Task Force to be lending its support to having this be in use now without perfection achieved. The Task Force agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Task Force Work Session – For Action

Recommendation: That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force discuss the date and time of the proposed work session for Trail Standards.

Documents:

-None

Speakers:

-Staff: Erik Axelson, South County Deputy Director

-Members of the Public: None.

Task Force Comments:

Staff secured Saturday, October 30, 2010 from 9:30AM to Noon at the Louis Lowery Davis Center for the Task Force Work Session. The intent for this Work Session is to have a less structured and less formal opportunity to discuss trail standards, trail conditions, user experiences, etc.

Task Force Member Longstreet commented that there is a limited amount of time for public comment during meetings and suggested to the public to give comments to the Task Force ahead of time, in writing, that makes it a little easier for the Members to digest and come prepared. Mr. Axelson said that is a good suggestion and staff could incorporate it into the notice. Task Force Member Longstreet also commented that she has a lot of paper and may not need all the trail standards back, but just where to look.

Task Force Member Dale asked if it would be appropriate for the public coming to this meeting to come with their suggestions for solutions to this. She would love to hear the public's idea of what the guidelines should be. Mr. Axelson said staff's intent is to maximize public input by recognizing that it is in the context of a less formal setting that promotes back and forth dialogue.

Motion:

Task Force members Burns/Longstreet to accept the recommend date and time of the Task Force Work Session on Saturday, October 30, 2010 from 9:30AM to Noon.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:52PM, with no further business to come before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned to the next scheduled meeting, to be held on December 1, 2010, at the Santa Barbara County Administration Building, Planning Commission Hearing Room, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara.

Motion:

Task Force members Longstreet/Burns to adjourn the meeting.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Axelsson', written in a cursive style.

Erik Axelsson
County Parks Deputy Director



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AGENDA DATE: December 1, 2010

TO: Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

FROM: Front Country Trails Task Force Staff

SUBJECT: **FCT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND 2011 FUNDING**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force review and discuss the next steps for developing the FCT Management Plan.

DISCUSSION:

Introduction

The Task Force held a work session on October 30, 2010 for the purpose of discussing mission and goals of the Front Country Trails Program, Trail Management and Use Definitions, and Trail Conflict Response Options. The work session served as a preliminary step in outlining key considerations in the development of the FCT Management Plan. The work session also included a presentation about trail management techniques of other communities to address trail conflict and safety.

Next Steps

The following list outlines some key next steps:

- Community Outreach Workshops – Conduct community workshops to outline and discuss trail management and use alternatives. With the assistance of a trained facilitator, seek input from a wide range of community members.
- Trail Assessment Project – Complete baseline trail assessment project (HETAP) and identify trail maintenance and management options.
- Stakeholder Proposals – Solicit recommendations from trail stakeholder groups, including an implementation framework and commitment.
- Trail Management Alternatives Analysis – Identify and analyze trail management and use alternatives. Consider economic and environmental feasibility, political and public acceptability, and timeline for implementation.

Implementation

Implementation of these steps will be a significant work effort for 2011. In addition to ongoing trail maintenance efforts, and fundraising and outreach programs, staff will focus on developing trail management and use alternative proposals for public discussion and Task Force consideration.

A comprehensive work schedule has not been finalized, however, it is anticipated that the community outreach workshops and trail assessment project would be the focus of the first six months of the year. The Task Force would consider community workshop results, stakeholder proposals and the trail management alternatives analysis during the regular meetings scheduled for March, June and September.

Program Funding and Staff Support

As shown in the attached funding plan, the budget for 2011 is \$52,500. This includes funding commitments of \$43,500 and assumes a fundraising goal of \$9,000. Key agency expenditures include the Trail Assessment Project and the Challenge Cost Share Agreement (CCA). Fundraising is focused on trail maintenance and community outreach.

The budget does not show the value of the staff time from the three agencies for program management and project coordination. Overall, agency staff time is very limited due to the range of other responsibilities, and recent budget and staff reductions.

The FCT Coordinator, funded jointly by the three agencies, is primarily responsible for day-to-day tasks including volunteer trail maintenance projects, community outreach and fundraising. The FCT Coordinator also works with the City Assistant Director, County Deputy Director and the Forest Service Wilderness Manager in the development and implementation of FCT projects. Given the limited agency staff time, the majority of staff efforts will be on moving the FCT Management Plan forward in 2011.

Since they are part of the FCT Funding Strategy (presented to the Task Force in September 2010), the 2011 funding plan includes items such as web site development, trail user surveys and trail reconstruction projects even though there is no identified funding in 2011.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. FCT October 20, 2010 Work Session Meeting Materials
2. 2011 Funding Plan

Front Country Trails Task Force Worksession
Louise Lowry Davis Center
Saturday October 30, 2010
9 am – 12 noon

Meeting Outline

- I. Introduction/Worksession Format (2 minutes)
- II. Background/Overview (3 minutes)
 - a. Task Force Formation
 - b. Public Meetings
 - c. FCT Management Recommendations
 - d. Multi-Agency Challenge Cost Share Agreement
- III. Front Country Trails Program (5 min presentation/10 min discussion)
 - a. Mission and Goals
 - b. Roles and Responsibilities
 - c. Management – Opportunities and Constraints
- IV. Trail Management and Use Definitions (10 min presentation/20 min discussion)
 - a. Trail Standards
 - b. Trail Guidelines
 - c. Trail Safety
 - d. User Experience/Expectations
 - e. User Conflict
- V. Trail Use Conflict Response Options (15 min presentation/30 min discussion)
 - a. Trail Information and Education
 - b. Trail Management
 - c. Trail Regulation - Separate/Restrict Use
- VI. Next Steps/Front Country Trails Management Plan (5 min presentation/25 min discussion)
 - a. Purpose/Focus
 - b. Methodology
 - c. Timeline

FCT Program Chronology

January 2007 – Task Force established

February 2007 – February 2008 – Task Force meetings

- Review and evaluate existing policy, current conditions, and funding
- Gather input on issues, options, and priorities related to Front Country Trails
- Review and evaluate information from other public entities and the Front Country Trails Working Group
- Develop FCT recommendations for the Los Padres Forest Supervisor, County Board of Supervisors, and the Santa Barbara City Council

Zaca Fire – July - September 2007

February 2008 – Task Force completes FCT Management Recommendations

June 2008 – FCT Management Recommendations accepted by the Los Padres Forest Supervisor, County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Barbara City Council

Gap Fire – July 2008

Tea Fire – November 2008

Jesusita Fire - May 2009

July 2009 – December 2009 – Task Force meetings/Program Implementation

- Challenge Cost Share Agreement approved and funded (\$30,000)
- Trailhead signage installed
- Trail maintenance projects underway, including post fire rehabilitation
- Pilot Trail Survey Project initiated
- FCT coordinator hired

January 2010 – October 2010 – Task Force meetings/Program Implementation

- Pilot Trail Survey complete
- Fullscale survey parameters and scope of work established
- Ongoing trail maintenance projects by trail volunteers
- Community outreach expanded
- Funding strategy outlined

Front Country Trails Program

Review and discuss the mission and goals of the Front Country Trails Program, and the roles and responsibilities of the Task Force, Forest Service, County and City staff, and stakeholders/members of the public. Identify the opportunities and constraints that support or inhibit the development of a long range management plan that addresses trail maintenance, safety, conflict, and resource protection.

Task Force Mission (as outlined in the January 2007 Statement of Purpose)

The mission of the FCT Task Force is to develop recommendations to foster responsible, cohesive, coordinated and comprehensive management of the Front Country Trails for the greater good of the community. Additionally, to provide a public forum to solicit and gather input from the public, trail users, property owners, community organizations and interest groups.

Task Force Objectives (as outlined in the January 2007 Statement of Purpose)

- Review and evaluate existing policy, current conditions, and funding related to use, maintenance, resource protection.
- Review and evaluate recommendations developed by the Front Country Trails Working Group (FCTWG) and the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA) related to use, maintenance and resource protection.
- Review and evaluate information from other public entities regarding innovative approaches to resolving multi-use conflicts, maintenance, planning and funding.
- Gather input on issues, options, and priorities related to Front Country Trails from trail users, community organizations, interest groups, property owners and members of the public.
- Develop and forward policy, maintenance, management, planning and funding recommendations to the respective commissions and governing bodies of the three jurisdictions.

FCT Program Mission and Goals

After several years of Task Force meetings, staff and stakeholder discussions, and work projects, we have now reached the point where the Front Country Trails initiative is established as a formal program of the three participating agencies. Flowing from the Task Force mission statement and objectives, the mission of the **Front Country Trails Program** is to:

- Implement effective joint management of the Front Country Trails system
- Research and recommend guidelines for the safe and enjoyable use of Front Country Trails system by a diverse range of trail users

- Coordinate trail maintenance and improvement projects, education and outreach initiatives, and promotion of the Front Country Trails as a regional recreational resource
- Cultivate partnerships with existing and emerging trail user groups and advocacy organizations

Roles and Responsibilities

Each constituent of the Front Country Trails community has a significant role in this program:

Task Force: The six-member Task Force is accountable to the appointing authorities and municipal governing bodies, and to the public at large. The Task Force meets at least quarterly and serves as a public forum for discussion about trail issues and management. It also serves as the policy advisory body for the Front Country Trails program. Public meetings of the Task Force provide opportunities for information and community input.

Agency Staff: Staff from the three agencies, including the FCT Coordinator, provide the day-to-day management of Front Country Trails. Working collaboratively, the staff implements the FCT Program and serves as the key interface with trail user groups and other FCT stakeholders. In addition to already identified stakeholders, FCT staff also seeks to promote the Front Country Trails to the wider public and visitors, and thereby enlarge the sense of ownership of the FCT system and program.

Public/Trails Stakeholders: Comprised of organized trail user groups and individual trail users, FCT stakeholders collectively have extensive experience with using and enjoying the Front Country Trails. Their perspectives have tremendously informed the FCT program, and their volunteer work on trail maintenance is vital. In addition, frequent consultations between stakeholder and FCT staff help in implementing FCT policies.

FCT Management Opportunities

Public Agency Collaboration

Trail heritage

Community/Stakeholder Involvement

Regional recreational resource

Regional population interested in trails

FCT Management Constraints

Lack of Funding

Limited Staff resources

Lack of consensus for trail use/management

Topography/Geography

Natural resource considerations

Trail Management and Use Definitions

Review and discuss key terms in the discussion of trail management, trail safety and conflict, and user experiences and expectations. Confirm understanding and establish common language.

Trail Standards: The approved model, design, or rule.

The Forest Service Standard Specifications for the Construction and Maintenance of Trails (EM-7720 103 & 104) provides direction for the specific construction of individual trail features. This national publication provides design specifications through engineered drawings, measurements, and description.

Trail Guidelines: Official advice or recommendations, a policy to determine a course of action, a working rule, or management tool.

The Forest Service Design Parameters: Technical guidelines for the survey, design, construction, maintenance, and assessment of a trail based on Designed Use and Trail Class (FSM 2300).

- **Designed Use** The Managed Use of the trail that requires the most demanding design, construction, and maintenance parameters and that determines the parameters that will apply to a trail.
- **Trail Class** The prescribed scale of development of a trail, representing its intended design and management standards.
- **FCT Guidelines (Design Parameters and Trail Classification):** There are guidelines adopted by the Forest Service and described in the Forest Service Trails Management Handbook (FSH 2309.18, Chapter 20). Design parameters adopted by the FS for FCTs are Pack and Saddle on designated Trail Class 3.

Trail Safety: Real or perceived hazards by and of trail users. Factors that may contribute to unsafe trail use/conditions:

- Trail users not following established Trail Etiquette recommendations
- Poor trail design, construction, maintenance or management
- Environmental changes to the trail (rock slides, washouts, mud)
- Environmental conditions – wild animals, poisonous plants
- User Created Trails (not constructed to trail standards)
- Poor trail user preparation or judgment (water, clothing, map, fitness)
- Reckless and irresponsible behavior

User Experience/Expectations: Recreation behaviors are understood to be goal-directed and undertaken to satisfy desires for a particular experience. Recreational experiences are affected by subjective and situational factors.

- Out to gain rewards and achieve outcomes
- Personal Challenges and Goals
- Solitude
- Experiencing Nature
- Skills Testing (both physical and mechanical)
- Being with friends or family (social interaction)

User Conflict: Conflict among different user groups, among users within the same group, and as result of factors not related to the trail user activities at all.

“A negative experience occurring when competition for shared resources prevents expected benefits of participation from accruing to an individual or group.”

Recreational User Conflict can be defined as “**goal interference attributed to another’s behavior**”.

Conflict has been found to relate to the following:

- Activity style/lifestyle tolerance
- Focus of the trip
- Expectations and/or experience
- Attitudes toward the environment
- Level of tolerance for others
- Different norms held by different users

Some User Conflict Measures: Speed differential, the number of users, types of users, and the interaction between users.

Trail Use Conflict Response Options

OPTIONS	APEX PARK	BOULDER	SAN LUIS	SANTA MONICA	TAHOE RIM
Trail Information and Education: Increase public knowledge about trail etiquette, trail user preparation, trail type/difficulty, user types, environmental resources/hazards.					
Signage at trailheads/on trails	x	x	x	x	x
TV/radio/print/web media		x	x	x	x
Printed materials	x	x	x	x	x
Community group/public meetings	x	x	x	x	x
Community events/festivals	x	x	x		
Trail days/trail hosts		x	x		
Trail Management: Physical changes to the trails to improve safety and visibility, provide areas for users to pass, reduce speeds					
Increase trail sustainability			x		
Provide consistent maintenance			x		
Construct trail features, such as pinch points	x	x	x		
Widen trails					
Build step outs					
Increase sight distances (vegetation removal)					
Trail Regulation - Separate/Restrict Use: Separate trail users through restrictions: limit user access to trails by time, trail, and/or route; close access points; establish speed limits and restrict direction					
Time - odd/even, weekend					x
Trail - designated trails for each use			x	x	
Route - re-route bike traffic around high pedestrian areas	x				
Establish downhill speed limits				x	
Establish direction - one way traffic	x				
Limit/close shuttle access points					*
Require bike bells**					

* Tahoe Rim access point has informal control through vendor

** While none of the areas required bike bells, their use is recommended in most education/etiquette programs

Front Country Trails Program 2011 Funding Plan - December 1, 2010

Item	Amount	Source of Funding			
		City of Santa Barbara	County of Santa Barbara	Los Padres Forest	Fundraising Needs
Program Staff City of Santa Barbara - In-kind - Assistant Director, Park Planner County of Santa Barbara - In-kind - Deputy Director, Park Ranger Los Padres Forest - In-kind - Wilderness and Trails Manager FCT Coordinator - up to 1,000 hours (Contract staff)	\$ 27,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	
Subtotal	\$ 27,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -
Community Outreach Website Development Community Events Informational Materials (Included in CCA) Trail Signage FCT Task Force Meeting Materials/TV Access (Included in CCA)	\$ 2,000 \$ 1,200 \$ 2,000 \$ 900	\$ 400 \$ - \$ 300	\$ 400 \$ - \$ 300	\$ 400 \$ - \$ 300	\$ - \$ 2,000 \$ - \$ 2,000 \$ -
Subtotal	\$ 6,100	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 4,000
Trail Management Plan Baseline Trail Assessment (incl software/hardware) Trail Use Survey(s) Management Plan	\$ 13,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,500	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 13,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,500	\$ -
Trail Maintenance Work Crews Supplies (Included in CCA)	\$ 5,000 \$ 900	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 5,000
Subtotal	\$ 5,900	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 5,000
Trail Reconstruction Planning Permitting Construction Maintenance					
Subtotal					
Total	\$ 52,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,500	\$ 9,000